



SOUTH ASIA: A shift in the monsoon circulation brought moderate to heavy showers (50-100 mm or more) to much of India's southern interior. While the moisture was overall beneficial, a swath of inundating rain (100-300 mm or more) caused local flooding over interior summer crop areas of Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh, including important cotton and groundnut areas. More moderate rain (10-50 mm or more) benefited soybeans, groundnuts, cotton, and coarse grains in important production areas of central India (western Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, and Rajasthan). Above-normal temperatures (highs in the mid- to upper-30's degrees C), however, maintained high crop moisture demands in the more arid crop areas bordering the western desert. Pockets of heavy rain (50-100 mm) persisted across northern and eastern India and Bangladesh, but a drier weather pattern dominated the rest of the rice belt, helping to alleviate local flooding. On average, monsoon rains typically last about 3 more weeks in rice areas of north-central India and roughly 6 weeks in the far east.